

Message Text

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40

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /132 W
----- 126288

R 060714 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1488

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 2212

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, KE, SO, ET

SUBJECT: KENYAN OFFICIALS COMMENT ON RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA

REF: MOGADISCIO 0397

1. AF/ E DIRECTOR COOTE AND CHARGE CALLED ON DEFENSE
MINISTRY PERMANENT SECRETARY KIEREINI ON APRIL 2 AND
FOREIGN MINISTRY PERMANENT SECRETARY MLAMBA ON APRIL 4.
KENYAN RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA WAS PROMINENT AMONG
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED.

2. ALTHOUGH KIEREINI AND MLAMBA EXPRESSED INTEREST IN
COOTE' S ACCOUNT OF SOMEWHAT CONCILIATORY SOMALIA ATTITUDE
TOWARD KENYA REFLECTED IN HIS RECENT CONVERSATION WITH
SOMALI OFFICIAL (PARA 6 REFTEL), THEY NEVERTHELESS
EXPRESSED MISTRUST OF SOMALI INTENTIONS AND INDICATED
THAT SOMALI ARMS ACQUISITIONS AND TRAINED GUERRILLAS
POSE THREAT TO KENYA.

3. BOTH KENYAN OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOMALIA
POSES MUCH GREATER MILITARY THREAT TO ETHIOPIA,
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PARTICULARLY SINCE LACK OF APPROPRIATELY SITUATED AIRFIELDS AND OTHER FACILITIES WOULD PREVENT SOMALIS FROM USING THEIR SOPHISTICATED WEAPONRY SUCH AS MIG-17 AND 19 AIRCRAFT IN SIGNIFICANT MILITARY STRIKE AGAINST KENYA. NEVERTHELESS, THEY FELT THERE IS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT SOMALIA WOULD UNDERTAKE A GUERRILLA OPERATION IN KENYA'S NORTHEASTERN PROVINCE IN EVENT OF MILITARY CONFLICT BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA. (MLAMBA CLAIMED SOMALIA NOW HAS 1,000 GUERRILLAS TRAINED BY NORTH KOREANS). IN CONTEXT OF CONFLICT WITH ETHIOPIA SOMALIS MIGHT, THEY FELT, UNDERTAKE DIVERSIONARY OPERATION IN KENYA TO DISCOURAGE KENYAN ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA. ALTHOUGH KENYA-ETHIOPIA MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY EXPIRED IN 1969, MLAMBA SAID RENEWAL HAS RECENTLY BEEN DISCUSSED WITH ETHIOPIANS AND SEEMS VERY LIKELY. KIEREINI, ON OTHER HAND, DID NOT ANTICIPATE RENEWAL AND INDICATED KENYA WOULD NOT, IN ANY EVENT, BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE MUCH MILITARY HELP TO ETHIOPIA. KENYAN SUPPORT -- WITH OR WITHOUT TREATY RENEWAL -- WOULD THUS BE PRIMARILY POLITICAL AND MORAL.

4. KIEREINI AND MLAMBA MENTIONED PRIORITY WHICH GOK HAS GIVEN TO IMPROVEMENT LIVING CONDITIONS OF SOMALI TRIBES IN KENYA DURING RECENT YEARS. WHILE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS HAVE ELIMINATED BASIS FOR ECONOMIC COMPLAINTS BY KENYAN SOMALIS (PARTICULARLY SINCE SOMALIS ON KENYA SIDE BORDER NOW MUCH BETTER OFF), KIEREINI NEVERTHELESS FELT THAT IN EVENT OF HOSTILITIES IN KENYAN NORTHEAST, SOMALIS LIVING IN KENYA WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE SIDE OF SOMALIA.

5. ACCORDING TO MLAMBA, KENYANS BEING COMPELLED, AS A RESULT CONTINUING SOMALI ARMS ACQUISITIONS, TO DIVERT RESOURCES FROM MORE PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES TO DEFENSE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN MILITARY CAPABILITY AGAINST SOMALIA. KIEREINI DOUBTED SOVIETS WOULD ENCOURAGE SOMALIS TO ENGAGE IN MILITARY OPERATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA OR KENYA, BUT SPECULATED THAT SOVIET STRATEGIC (PARTICULARLY NAVAL) INTERESTS IN INDIAN OCEAN AND RED SEA WILL MOTIVATE THEM TO CONTINUE TO BE FORTHCOMING IN SUPPLYING ARMS TO SOMALIA. HE STATED THAT GOK HAS SEVERAL TIMES COMPLAINED TO SOVIET OFFICIALS HERE RE THEIR SUPPLY OF ARMS TO SOMALIA, BUT
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THEY HAVE TAKEN POSITION THEY CANNOT REFUSE SOMALI REQUESTS

AND HAVE OFFERED TO SUPPLY ARMS TO KENYA AS WELL.

6. WHEN COOTE SUGGESTED TENSIONS MIGHT BE LESSENER BY
BILATERAL KENYA- SOMALI TALKS, KIEREINI POINTED OUT THAT
HIGH LEVEL TALKS NOT POSSIBLE FROM KENYAN POINT OF
VIEW UNLESS SOMALIS GIVE UP QUESTION OF TERRITORIAL
ADJUSTMENTS AS PRECONDITION. HE SAID SOMALIS HAD PUT
OUT FEELERS FOR SAID- KENYATTA TALKS BUT KENYATTA HAS
SHOWN NO INTEREST IN ARRANGING MEETING. KIEREINI ALSO
SAID BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD BEEN EXACERBATED
BY PRESENT SOMALI AMBASSADOR IN KENYA WHO REPORTS
INACCURATELY TO MOGADISCIO AND GIVES IMPRESSION OF
ENGAGING IN " CLANDESTINE" OPERATIONS IN KENYA.
LINDSTROM

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